

Stale Wanderers Lose At Home

By "CHILTERN"

Wycombe Wanderers 0, Bromley 3.

A GRIM performance by a stale-looking Wycombe Wanderers side put a damper on their hopes for Isthmian League supremacy when they were shown the ropes by a young Kent side who played with far more purpose to avenge their 6-2 trouncing by Wycombe at their own ground in December.

You would not have thought that Wanderers were still in with a chance for the championship the way they played. They looked as if they didn't care. They looked as if they had had enough.

And you can't play football like that against a youthful, energetic side, however far down the league table they are, and hope to get away with it.

Nor is it any good offering excuses, of which, admittedly, there are several. It's no good saying that things would have been different if Bates had not missed a penalty, or if the ball had not bounced badly for goalkeeper Maskell for Bromley's second goal.

The side as a whole has not been having too happy a time recently, and it had to happen sometime. This was Wycombe's first home defeat in the league all season. It was their first league defeat since January 8 when Worley was injured.

Bromley went ahead in the tenth minute with one of those goals that makes a trip worthwhile. Blond winger Hutchins beat Bradshaw on the left, cut inside and hit an inswinger from about 25 yards that just beat the outstretched fingers of the diving Maskell.

Peter Roystone was back in the Wycombe side after his injury at Hendon three weeks ago. Playing at inside right he was the only Wanderer to try a shot in the first 20 minutes. Admittedly most of them were high and wide, but two were on the target and could well have surprised a lesser goalkeeper than Bonner.

Bates had hard luck with a shot after beating his man, but the Wycombe side continued to miss the ball with colour-blind precision.

Bates' penalty came after a foul by the Bromley goalkeeper in a do or die effort to reach a Gale free-kick. But then Bonner made a fantastic save to the Wycombe centre-forward's spot-kick after choosing the right way to dive.

From then on the Wycombe fans gave Bonner the bird—quite unnecessarily, and at one time during the second-half the goalkeeper complained to the referee that things were being thrown at

him. These "supporters" certainly don't like being beaten.

Bromley's second came just on half-time. Centre-forward Brown, finding himself with nobody to pass to, kicked the ball goalwards hopefully.

It was not a hard shot, and Maskell, looking to have it covered, waited for it to bounce. This it did, away from his waiting arms, over his shoulder and into the net.

Wycombe had more of the play in the second half, but never looked really dangerous.

Howe got Bromley's third after a rare mistake by Rundle. Wycombe forced several more corners in succession, but were unable to score.

It was not that Wycombe were not trying—they just didn't look good enough. No wonder the spectators were leaving 10 minutes before the end.

Wycombe.—J. Maskell; D. Bradshaw, J. Beck; B. Baker, I. Rundle, C. Gale; K. Samuels, P. Roystone, P. Bates, T. Horseman, L. Merrick.

Bromley.—P. Bonner, J. Bridge, D. McCallister; L. McGill, G. Gaston, I. Luckhurst; R. McGibbon, N. Howe, P. Brown, C. England, R. Hutchins.